(b) whether Government propose to conduct any enquiry into the charges levelled by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra against NDDB; and

(c) whether it is a fact that NDDB was having sufficient quantity of edible oil for distribution during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The question of enquiry into the NDDB's activities under market intervention operations does not arise. NDDB is implementing market intervention operations on behalf of the Central Government in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by the Government.

(c) NDDB's stock of edible oil, created under the market intervention operations, is not meant to meet the entire demand of a particular place or State. The market intervention operations' stocks are meant to play a moderating role in the edible oil market and the stocks are being used for this purpose.

Ban on felling of trees for manufacturing of Railway Sleepers

83. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that felling of trees for manufacturing railway sleepers has been banned; and

(b) if so, what alternative arrangement have been made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir. However, to conserve forest wealth of the country, Railways have drastically reduced the intake of wooden sleepers already and further reduction is in process;

(b) Incrased production and use of concrete sleepers.

Suicide by Scientist of ICAR

84. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Scientist of ICAR committed suicide in the month of January, 1991 due to harassment of high ups in the organisation;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof;

(a) whether it is also a fact that in the past also a number of ICAR Scientists had committed suicide on similar grounds; and

(e) if so, what are the particulars of such Scientists and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such incidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) Sir, A Scientist of the Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry was found dead in the institute on 7th January, 1991. A committee has been constituted to inquire into the matter. Report of the committee has not been received so far.

(d) No Sir, In no case of alleged suicide, harassment by high ups has been proved to be the cause.

(e) Does not arise.

Charges in the norms for setting up of Sugar Mills

85. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed norms for setting up of sugar mills;